

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EO-548  
CG

**POST POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 448X)  
July 17, 2007

**ABANDONMENT TYPE**

(X) Notice of Exemption ( ) Petition for Exemption ( ) Regulated Abandonment

**(X) RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF SECTION 106 CONDITION**

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on March 23, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA and Post EA, SEA ultimately recommended five environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. One of the conditions states the following:

**BNSF Railway Company shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. BNSF Railway Company shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation or State Historic Preservation Historic Office and any other Section 106 consulting parties. BNSF Railway Company may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.**

**Comments on the EA**

Since the EA for this proceeding was served, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has been consulting with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to assist SEA in completing the Section 106 process in this proceeding. In a February 9, 2007 letter to BNSF, the SHPO had requested that a detailed cultural resources assessment be completed along the rail line prior to agreeing to provide its concurrence for the proposed action under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see attached).

BNSF subsequently completed a Cultural Resource Survey for the rail line and documented the results of the survey in the report: Archaeological Survey for the BNSF Olympia Abandonment Project, Olympia, Washington. The report was submitted to the SHPO on June 28, 2007 and copied to SEA. The SHPO subsequently reviewed the report and provided its opinion to SEA that cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (the rail line right-of-way) were eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, but that **no historic properties would be affected** by the project as currently proposed (see attached letter). However, the SHPO requested that if the nature of the project changes or if any archaeological resources are uncovered during salvage activities that

Native American Tribes and the SHPO be contacted for further consultation.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the above information, SEA has determined that the Section 106 process has been completed in this proceeding and recommends that the Section condition currently attached to the decision be removed. SEA requests that the remaining four conditions remain as stated.

SEA CONTACT: Catherine Glidden (202) 245-0293



ET-2852  
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STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501  
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
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February 9, 2007

Mr. Sidney Strickland, Jr.  
Sidney Strickland And Associates, PLLC  
3050 K St. NW, Suite 101  
Washington, Dc 20007-5108

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 022306-03-STB

Property: BNSF Abandonment Hardel Spur (AB-06 Sub#448X)

Re: Review Comments, Historic Report

Dear Mr. Strickland, Jr.:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The abandonment of the BNSF Hardel Spur in Olympia, Washington, materials have been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. My review is based upon documentation contained in your communication.

All of the information contained in the Historic Report (Section II of the submitted materials) provides a contextual overview of the proposed abandonment but fails to analyze the nature of the resource itself and the effects of the abandonment on cultural resources in the area. All of the information provided by this agency was reported accurately and in an unbiased manner, yet none of the recommendations appear to have been acted upon. As the regulatory agency overseeing the protection of cultural resources in the State of Washington, a detailed cultural resources assessment of the proposed undertaking is required before concurrence under Section 106 can be provided by DAHP. As mentioned in previous correspondence, we look forward to the completion of the cultural resources survey for this project.

Please note that DAHP has developed a set of cultural resource reporting guidelines. You can obtain a copy of these guidelines from our Web site. Additionally, a list of qualified consultants (meeting standards of professionalism established by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for archaeology, architecture, history, and/or historic preservation) that could complete the cultural resources assessment for your project is also available on our Web site. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sterner, M.A., RPA  
Transportation Archaeologist  
(360) 586-3082  
[matthew.sterner@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:matthew.sterner@dahp.wa.gov)

Cc: SEA-STB, Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 448X)





EI-3017  
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STATE OF WASHINGTON

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July 2, 2007

Ms. Catherine Glidden  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington DC 20423-0001

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 022306-03-STB

Property: BNSF Abandonment Hardel Spur (AB-06 Sub#448X)

Re: No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms. Glidden:

Recently the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) were contacted by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) concerning the above stated STB action. The project has been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800. The review was conducted by Transportation Archaeologist Matthew Sterner and I and our review is based upon documentation contained in a communication from BNSF.

As we requested, the BNSF forwarded to DAHP a Cultural Resource Survey for this undertaking satisfying both 36CFR800 and 49CFR1150. The railroad's consultant concluded in the survey that resources within the Area of Potential Effect were eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A; however, there would be "no effect" to historic structures. DAHP does not concur. Rather, it is our opinion that no historic properties will be affected by the current project as proposed. If additional information on the project becomes available, or if any archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, please halt work in the area of discovery and contact the appropriate Native American Tribes and DAHP for further consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Russell Holter  
Project Compliance Reviewer  
[Russell.Holter@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:Russell.Holter@dahp.wa.gov)

Cc: Jake DeBoever (BNSF)  
Matthew Sterner (DAHP)



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Protect the Past. Shape the Future